

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing molten irons, comprising:
providing a mixture containing iron by drying and mixing iron ores and additives;

~~drying the iron ores or the additives by using a portion of a branched exhaust gas which is exhausted from at least one fluidized bed while conveying the mixtures to the fluidized bed by using the portion of the branched exhaust gas which is directed to the fluidized bed;~~

passing the mixture containing iron through one or more successively-connected fluidized beds to convert the mixture into a reduced material that is reduced and calcined;

forming a coal packed bed as a heat source in which the reduced material has been melted;

charging the reduced material to the coal packed bed and supplying oxygen to the coal packed bed to manufacture molten irons; and

supplying reducing gas exhausted from the coal packed bed to the fluidized bed,

wherein

the mixture is dried and conveyed using branched exhaust gas comprising less than all of the exhaust gas which is exhausted from the fluidized bed and supplied to a conveying line while the mixture is conveyed toward the fluidized bed in the conveying line; and

the mixture is supplied to the conveying line in substantially the same direction as a supplying direction of the branched exhaust gas to the conveying line to start conveying the mixture in the conveying line.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in the step of providing a mixture containing iron, at least one of the iron ores and the additives is dried immediately prior to supply to the fluidized bed.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of providing a mixture containing iron comprises the step of:

- discharging stored iron ores and additives;
- drying the iron ores and additives using separate heating air while vibrating the iron ores and additives;
- storing the dried iron ores and additives; and
- supplying the stored iron ores and additives to the fluidized bed.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in the step of providing a mixture containing iron, an amount of branched exhaust gas is 20~40% of an amount of exhaust gas exhausted from the fluidized bed.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in the step of providing a mixture containing iron, at least one of the iron ores and the additives is conveyed and simultaneously dried.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein in the step of providing a mixture containing iron, a flow rate of the exhaust gas is 20~30m/s in the case where the iron ores are conveyed.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein in the step of providing a mixture containing iron, a flow rate of the exhaust gas is 10~20m/s in the case where additives are conveyed.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein in the step of providing a mixture containing iron, the iron ores are fine ores having a grain size of 8mm or less.

9. – 15. (Canceled)